
Judd Gregg

NEWS RELEASE

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GREGG CALLS FOR SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN CLEAN, RENEWABLE FUEL IN SENATE ENERGY LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) recently joined several of his Senate colleagues in calling on the Senate Energy Committee to include a substantial increase in the production of renewable energy, including wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass, in any energy legislation passed by the Senate this year. Senator Gregg supported a significant renewable energy package during Senate debate on the energy legislation last year.

Senator Gregg stated, "Renewable energy is no longer the far-off fuel of the future – it is a legitimate and available source of energy that should be a significant portion of any balanced energy legislation the Senate considers. Our economy continues to suffer from the instability of our reliance on foreign sources of energy, and substantial development of renewable fuels will not only help eliminate this instability, but also help clean up our environment.

"I introduced clear air legislation recently with the goal of reducing the amount of air pollution brought into the northeast from other parts of the nation. New Hampshire suffers from some of the worst air quality in the nation due to the side effects of the manufacturing of some traditional sources of energy. With continued development and assistance from the federal government, renewable sources of fuel can couple with traditional fuels to meet our energy needs and help promote a cleaner environment."

Senator Gregg joined several Senate colleagues in a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Energy Committee, which states, "It is now more imperative than ever that we act to promote the generation of electricity through the use of renewable resources such as wind, solar, geothermal and biomass. As concerns about the over-reliance on natural gas to meet future demands for electricity continue to grow, renewable resources provide an important opportunity to diversify our energy sources. Reducing reliance on a single source of fuel contributes to the increased reliability of electric service and reduces consumer costs both for electricity and natural gas.

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"Increased fuel diversity also enhances our national security by reducing our reliance on

foreign sources of energy. As former CIA Director James Woolsey, former National Security Advisor to President Reagan Robert McFarlane, and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Thomas Moorer explained in a letter to Congress following the attacks of September 11, 2001, a strong renewable portfolio standard is an important component of addressing the significant challenges to America's energy security.

“By promoting renewable energy, we will also enhance the health and welfare of our constituents by reducing emissions of harmful pollutants associated with the burning of fossil fuels. Strengthening renewable energy production will also reduce carbon dioxide emissions.”

S. 14, a measure aimed at enhancing the energy security of the nation, goes to the Senate floor today for consideration.

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